

NOTES ON SOME SUMMER AND FALL BIRDS OF THE
CROOKED LAKE REGION, CASS AND CROW
WING COUNTIES, MINN.

BY ALBERT W. HONYWILL, JR.

THE birds in the following list were observed during portions of four summers, spent at a camp on Crooked Lake, in what is known as the "Lake Region of Minnesota." The notes cover the following periods: from July 11 to September 8, 1907; July 11 to August 30, 1908; July 17 to August 30, 1909; and July 19 to August 30, 1910.

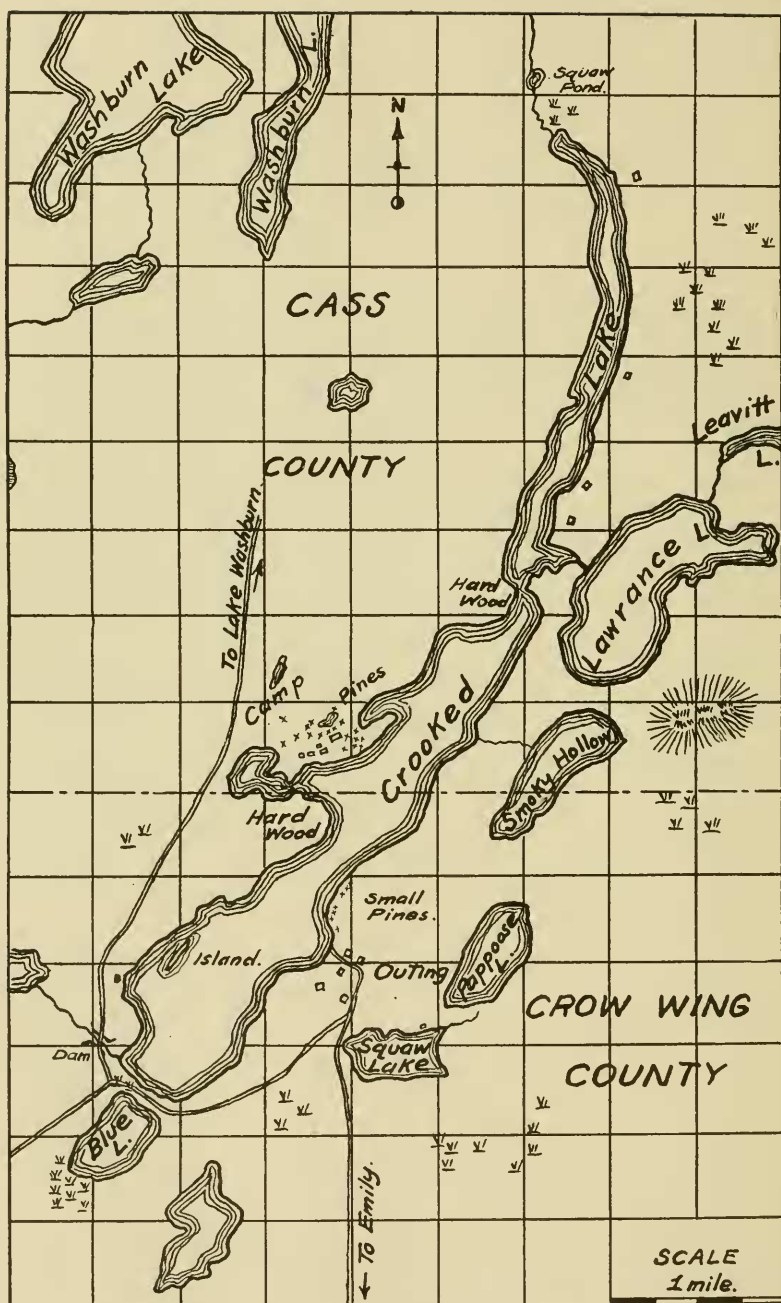
The list is not presented as a complete list of the summer birds of the region described, but it is hoped that some of the notes may prove of interest as covering an area whose avifauna has changed greatly in the last twenty-five years, and is likely to undergo still further change as it is settled and opened up to farming.

Many of the birds were observed while on fishing trips and during walks to Emily, a small town located about four miles south of Crooked Lake. A daily bird record was kept.

The region described contains a large number of lakes, many of which are of considerable size. Crooked Lake is a long narrow lake about six and a half miles in length. The upper half narrows down until it appears more like a wide river than a lake. Several other lakes empty into Crooked, the largest of which is known as Lawrence Lake, and is perhaps two miles long.

The land in this region was formerly covered with a thick growth of pine, largely Norway and white pine, but this was steadily cut off until about ten years ago, when the last tract of timber of any size was cut. Most of the land has since grown up to white birch, scrub oak, and poplar. Almost every fall portions of the country are burned over by forest fires, so that although in some places the timber was cut twenty-five years ago, there is no growth of any size save for an occasional patch of original hardwood forest.

The camp mentioned above is located near the shore, on a cove or bay on the west of Crooked Lake. A small grove of Norway pine, perhaps five acres in extent surrounds the camp. These



MAP OF THE CROOKED LAKE REGION

pinces were purchased from the lumber interests a number of years ago, and are the only pines of any size in the vicinity. Across from the camp, on the other side of the cove, is a small hardwood forest containing many fine old birches. Directly west of the camp, for several miles, the country has grown up to brush.

Along the road from the little town of Outing, located on the east bank of Crooked Lake, to Emily, small portions of the land are under cultivation, and more is being cleared.

Nests containing eggs or young of the following species were found: Spotted Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Kingbird, Phœbe, Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Purple Martin, Cedar Waxwing, Catbird, House Wren, and Robin.

From my daily list I find that an average of about 17 species were seen each day, the greatest number being 35 seen on July 14, 1908.

Three birds have been omitted from the following list because their identification was considered too doubtful. It is hoped that at some future date further notes may be added.

I am much indebted to Mr. Herbert K. Job for examination of the manuscript, and for helpful suggestions in preparing the same.

List of Birds Observed.

1. **Podilymbus podiceps.** PIED-BILLED GREBE.—A single pair was seen in a small "pug hole," or slough, near Washburn Lake, on Aug. 19, 1907.

2. **Gavia immer.** LOON.—Abundant. Each small lake has its pair of birds. Their call is often heard in the early morning and late afternoon as they fly over singly or in pairs. By the middle of August, when the young are better able to take care of themselves, the Loons seem to prefer the larger lakes, perhaps because the food supply is better. I have sometimes seen as many as six Loons on Crooked Lake at one time.

3. **Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.** BLACK TERN.—These birds are commonly seen flying over Crooked and Blue Lakes. Flocks of twelve or fifteen will sometimes gather on a small island of rocks near the lower end of Crooked. These Terns seem to have become more abundant in the past year or two.

4. **Lophodytes cucullatus.** HOODED MERGANSER.—These birds appear to be not uncommon. I have seen them several times on small lakes west of Crooked, as well as on the latter and the small stream emptying from it.

5. **Anas platyrhynchos.** MALLARD.—Two or three pairs breed on Crooked Lake each year. They are not common here, however, because there is practically no wild rice. About twelve miles north of Crooked Lake Mallards are quite plentiful.

6. **Aix sponsa.** WOOD DUCK.—Several of these birds were usually observed each year on a small lake about a mile west of the camp.

7. **Botaurus lentiginosus.** BITTERN.—Common. I have several times flushed these birds by nearly stepping on them while walking along the lake shore. When out fishing I have rowed within a few feet of them only to have them take to the brush rather than fly.

8. **Ardea herodias herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON.—Quite common. I was told by a former lumber camp cook that there was a colony of these birds on Pistol Lake, about eight miles west of Crooked Lake, but I was unable to verify this statement.

9. **Porzana carolina.** SORA.—Not common.

10. **Fulica americana.** COOT.—Uncommon. Seen on Crooked Lake Aug. 30, 1908.

11. **Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIFE.—Occasionally observed during fall migration. Seen on Aug. 25 and 29, 1908, and on Aug. 3, 1910.

12. **Helodromas solitarius solitarius.** SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Not uncommon during the fall migration.

13. **Actitis macularius.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—A common bird along the lake shores. On July 22, 1909, a couple of young birds were caught and photographed on a small island at the lower end of Crooked Lake.

14. **Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.—On July 19, 1910, five birds were observed flying along the shore of Crooked Lake. At a small lake west of Crooked, on August 3, small flocks were observed running along the water's edge.

15. **Bonasa umbellus umbellus.** RUFFED GROUSE.—Common. Covies of these birds were often flushed. A cat from our camp caught a brooding bird on the nest, early in the season. The nest was located under a woodpile near the barn, and contained twelve eggs.

16. **Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** TURKEY VULTURE.—Occasionally seen soaring overhead.

17. **Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—Rather common. On July 27, 1910, I scared up a family of five from ground partly overgrown with brush.

18. **Accipiter velox.** SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Not common. A male of this species was shot in the chicken yard on Aug. 13, 1908.

19. **Accipiter cooperi.** COOPER'S HAWK.—Not common.

20. **Buteo borealis borealis.** RED-TAILED HAWK.—A hawk of this species was identified on August 5, 1910.

21. **Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus.** BALD EAGLE.—This bird is fast disappearing from this region. Formerly it was not uncommon to see two or three of these magnificent birds in the air at the

same time, but this year (1910) not a single bird was seen. The gunners cannot resist the temptation to shoot at the bird because of its size and beauty. I heard of one bird which was shot this summer, which I assumed from the description was a young bird. It was left where it fell.

22. *Falco sparverius sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK.—Rather uncommon.

23. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. OSPREY.—Three nests were located in rather close proximity to each other on the top of dead stubs about a mile from the camp and half a mile from Crooked Lake.

24. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.—It is not unusual to hear the distant hoot of this owl about dusk or in the early evening. During the summer of 1907 a pair of young birds made their headquarters in a small tamarack swamp a short distance from the camp. Before it was dark they would commence calling at regular intervals, continuing until late at night. Their harsh, discordant cries so disturbed the sleep of some of the members of the camp that, finally, one of the birds was shot and the other scared away.

25. *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.

26. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—On August 18, 1908, I caught and photographed a young bird that was just about able to fly. Cuckoos appear to be fairly common in this vicinity. They are heard quite often, but it is almost impossible to get near enough to see them, and for this reason it is difficult to say whether this or the preceding species is the more common.

27. *Ceryle alcyon*. KINGFISHER.—Commonly seen along the lake shores.

28. *Dryobates villosus villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Fairly common. Quite often seen about the camp.

29. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Common, but especially so during the last of August and September.

30. *Sphyrapicus varius varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—In 1907 a bird was seen on August 6. The next year Sapsuckers were quite common. On August 11, and for two or three days following, a bird was observed drumming on the tin gutter of one of the buildings. During 1909 no Sapsuckers were seen, while in 1910 the only bird observed was seen on August 24.

31. *Phlœotomus pileatus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—I have never seen this bird, but twice I have heard a call which a former "lumber jack," in charge of the camp during the year, ascribed to this species. He said that he occasionally saw these birds around the camp in the spring. The mummified remains of a male bird, shot this last spring, was shown to me.

32. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Although never very common this bird seemed to be more rare than usual in 1910. Only two individuals were observed.

33. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. FLICKER.—Very common. This

country offers innumerable nesting sites in the enormous number of dead tree trunks that are standing.

34. *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL.— Nearly every night during July several Whip-poor-wills were heard calling in the distance, but after the middle of August they were only heard occasionally.

35. *Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK.— Abundant. In the day time I have found them squatted on the tops of stumps. During the afternoon and until dark they are commonly seen overhead. About the first of September thirty or forty migrating Nighthawks may be counted at one time. On July 24, 1907, while walking across a blueberry patch, I flushed two young birds, which succeeded in making their escape.

36. *Chaetura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.— Not very common. Several were observed about a mile beyond the end of Crooked Lake on July 31, 1907, when a nest containing four young birds was found in a deserted log cabin. I believe that the Swifts quite often nest in hollow stubs in this vicinity.

37. *Archilochus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.— Not more than two or three have been observed during an entire season.

38. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.— Abundant.

39. *Sayornis phoebe*. PHOEBE.— Quite common. There are two double-deck nests in the camp that have been occupied in successive years; one under the ridgepole of a log cabin, and the other on the window sill of a frame building. A third nest was located in the woodpile.

40. *Myiochanes virens*. WOOD PEWEE.— Very common in the vicinity of the camp, where there are several stretches of hard wood forest.

41. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER.— Not as common as the Wood Pewee, but found in the same location.

42. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. BLUE JAY.— Common at all times, but more noticeable toward the end of August, when they commence to call.

43. *Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN.— Occasionally seen near the lake shore, or soaring overhead.

44. *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*. CROW.— Fairly common.

45. *Molothrus ater ater*. COWBIRD.— Not very common. A few seemed to remain near the camp.

46. *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.— This bird is not as common in this region as one would be led to expect from the large amount of marshland and the great number of lakes.

47. *Sturnella magna magna*. MEADOWLARK.— Occasionally seen in the vicinity of Emily, about five miles south of Crooked Lake, where the land is more or less cultivated.

48. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.— On August 22, 1908, a bird was seen at a distance and identified as a female of this species. The identification, however, was not positive, and it may be that the Baltimore Oriole does not occur in this immediate vicinity.

49. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.— Rather uncommon during the summer, but small flocks are sometimes seen during the latter part of August.

50. *Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.— Occasionally observed around the camp in the latter part of summer.

51. *Astragalinus tristis tristis*. GOLDFINCH.— Very abundant. A nest containing five eggs was found on August 23, 1910.

52. *Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW.— First appeared in this immediate vicinity in spring of 1907. They attempted to take possession of the Martin houses, but several were shot and the rest scared off. Each year since then war has been waged upon them, and they have not as yet become troublesome.

53. *Poœcetes gramineus gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.— Along the road to Emily, and wherever tracts of sufficient size have been cleared, or are not overgrown with brush, the Vesper Sparrow is quite common.

54. *Ammodramus savannarum australis*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.— It is not unusual to hear the song of this rather shy and unobtrusive bird, coming from the brush and fields along the road from Outing to Emily.

55. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.— The song of this characteristic bird may be heard at almost any hour of the day.

56. *Spizella passerina passerina*. CHIPPING SPARROW.— Quite abundant, especially near the camp. Several nests were observed in the lower branches of the pines.

57. *Spizella pusilla pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.— Common along the road to Emily, where there are several cultivated fields, but rare elsewhere.

58. *Melospiza melodia melodia*. SONG SPARROW.— Very common. A nest, located near the outlet of Crooked Lake, was situated in a bush, about six feet from the ground, and contained three eggs on July 24, 1910. Another nest was found in a bush overhanging the water and only about two feet from it.

59. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE.— Common in the brush, where their song is continually heard.

60. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. ROSE-BREADED GROSBIRD.— Not uncommon. A pair were seen July 28, 1907, and a female Aug. 21, 1910. They are occasionally observed on the drive into camp.

61. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.— Rather uncommon.

62. *Progne subis subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.— Common. The farmers as a rule erect some kind of a nesting box and these are usually occupied. In three cases I have found Martins nesting in holes in dead trees, and I believe it is not an uncommon practise in this locality. In 1904 three Martin houses on the camp were each occupied by a single pair of birds. In 1905 there was no increase. By 1907 we had put up five houses of various kinds and four of these were in use by five pairs of birds. In 1908 there was a small increase in our flock. The next year two of the

first houses were replaced by new ones. There were perhaps twelve pairs of birds nesting about the camp, although the exact number could not be ascertained. This year another house was erected and a further increase of the flock noticed. A few days before they left this fall I was able to count over fifty birds, and without doubt there were more. Average date of departure, August 25. Latest seen August 29, 1908.

63. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.—A few occasionally seen in the fall.

64. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.—Never seen in the immediate vicinity of Crooked Lake, but observed along the road to Pine River, where the country is more settled.

65. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING.—Common. On Aug. 4, 1908, four young birds were found that were not quite able to fly. While arranging them to be photographed one of the old birds came and fed them. The old birds appeared to be fearless, and fed the young ones blueberries and wild cherries while I held them enclosed in my hands, and even tried to get to their young when I pushed them gently aside. Nests were sometimes located in the Norway pines, from the noise made by the young in calling for food. Usually these nests were placed upon the extreme ends of the branches and were inaccessible. They were generally composed almost entirely of usnea moss.

66. *Vireosylva olivacea*. RED-EYED VIREO.—Very common. From August 21 to 24, 1910, large numbers of migrants were seen.

67. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—One was heard singing on Aug. 11, 1910. Migrants were fairly common on, and for a few days after, the twenty-first of the month.

68. *Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—A bird was seen in the second growth near the bank of a small lake on August 17, 1910, and was identified as belonging to this species.

69. *Dendroica æstiva æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Not uncommon along the borders of the lakes.

70. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—Rather rare summer resident; more common after the middle of August.

71. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—I have never observed this bird in the pines around the camp, although I have heard the song on the drive into camp.

72. *Dendroica vigorsii*. PINE WARBLER.—Quite often observed in the pines near the camp, where it probably breeds.

73. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVENBIRD.—Common.

74. *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*. WATER THRUSH.—Quite common from August 24 to 27, 1910, when it was observed in the birch woods as well as along the water's edge.

75. *Geothlypis trichas trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Abundant.

76. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADA WARBLER.—Migrants were seen on August 21 and 24, 1910.

77. *Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART.—Rather rare summer resident. Migrants observed from August 19 to 24, 1910.

78. *Dumetella carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—Not very common. A pair nested near the camp but they were seldom seen in the brush.

79. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.—Not uncommon.

80. *Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Very common. One pair was found nesting in a rural delivery box, while a second pair selected an old threshing machine as a desirable location. Another pair nested within one of the camp buildings, gaining access through a crevice under the eaves.

81. *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Quite common.

82. *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE.—Common.

83. *Hylocichla mustelina*. WOOD THRUSH.—Occasionally seen, but more often heard, in the late afternoon or evening.

84. *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*. VEERY.—During the summer of 1908 the Veery was quite often seen or heard in the vicinity of the camp, but all other years it has been more or less uncommon.

85. *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*. ROBIN.—Common about the camp.

86. *Sialia sialis sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Fairly common. One or two broods usually remained near the camp.

THE BAHAMAN SPECIES OF *GEOTHYLPIS*.

BY W. E. CLYDE TODD.

Two very distinct Warblers of the genus *Geothlypis* exist in the Bahama Islands, one the common Maryland Yellow-throat of eastern North America, *G. trichas*, which occurs as a winter resident, the other a much larger endemic species, found in the more northern islands of the group, where it has become split up into a number of closely allied specific or conspecific forms, whose discrimination is a matter of no small difficulty. Our present concern is with this larger bird, this study being the outgrowth of an attempt to identify the specimens collected by Mr. W. W. Worthington in 1909, and having been made possible through the courtesy of the various institutions and individuals specified beyond, where-